

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PBOR, IS, JO, XF
SUBJECT: MAYOR QAWASIMA VIEWS ON THE PEACE PROCESS

1. HEBRON'S MAYOR QAWASIMA RECEIVED CONGEN AND POLOFF HULL
AT HIS HOME AUGUST 18 FOR AN EXTENDED EXCHANGE ON THE
UPCOMING SUMMIT AT CAMP DAVID. RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, THE
MAYOR WAS UNUSUALLY DETAILED AND ANALYTICAL IN HIS
PRESENTATION.

2. QAWASIMA CONFIRMED THAT NEWS OF THE SUMMIT HAD PROVIDED
MUCH INTEREST IN THE WEST BANK. PALESTINIANS FELT HISTORIC
DECISIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN AT CAMP DAVID, HE SAID, BUT
THEY WERE NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT
OF BEGIN'S RECENT STATEMENT (PROPOSING A PERMANENT PARTIAL
PEACE) AND DAYAN'S STATEMENT (REJECTING A RETURN TO 1976
BORDERS).

3. THE CONGEN SAID THE U.S. MAINTAINED THE GOAL OF
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A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT AND HOPED TO ACHIEVE
AT CAMP DAVID A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW
PARTICIPATION BY BOTH JORDAN AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTA-
TIVES AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE.

4. QAWASIMA SAID LOCAL PALESTINAINS WOULD BE INFLUENCED
IN INTERPRETING THE OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT BY

THREE PARTIES: (1) THE ARAB STATES, (2) ISRAEL (AS DEFINED BY HER POST-SUMMIT ACTIONS, E.G. ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS), AND (3) PALESTINIANS IN THE DIASPORA.

5. QAWASIMA THOUGHT PARTICIPATION BY JORDAN WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP ON THE WHOLE ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROVOKE AN AMBIGUOUS REACTION AMONG PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK. ON ONE HAND, THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED THAT EVENTUAL SUCCESS WAS POSSIBLE (SINCE THE KING WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED FOR NOTHING). ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WOULD FEAR THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD BE BADLY REPRESENTED, AS THEY HAD IN THE PAST BY ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

6. "WOULD WEST BANK PALESTINIANS THEN BE PREPARED TO JOIN THE TALKS?" THE CONSUL GENERAL ASKED. THAT, QAWASIMA REPLIED, WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION THAT COULD ONLY BE MADE AFTER LONG MONTHS OF DEBATE AMONG PALESTINIANS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IF REJECTION PREVAILED OUTSIDE, PALESTINIANS INSIDE WOULD STILL HAVE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. QAWASIMA SAID NEITHER ISRAEL NOR JORDAN WERE INTERESTED IN HAVING PERSONS LIKE MUSTAFA DOUDIN INVOLVED, DESPITE THEIR COMPLIANCE, SINCE THEY HAD NO POPULAR BASE. THE DECISION WAS FOR TRUE REPRESENTATIVES LIKE HIMSELF, AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY TOUGH. HE COULD BECOME INVOLVED, HE SAID, BUT ONLY IF THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE SUFFICIENTLY CLARIFIED THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCESS
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SO THAT MODERATE PALESTINIANS COULD RALLY A MAJORITY TO ACCEPT IT. SUCH A DEBATE HAD ALREADY OCCURRED ON THE AUTONOMY PLAN, BUT THE RESULT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY FOR REJECTION, QAWASIMA SAID. CONTEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IF CAMP DAVID HAD A REASONABLE OUTCOME, PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT MISS THE BOAT.

7. COMMENT: QAWASIMA DID NOT MENTION THE PLO PROMINENTLY IN HIS REMARKS AND SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT PALESTINIANS LIVING UNDER OCCUPATION SHOULD HAVE A LOUD, PERHAPS DECISIVE, VOICE IN MAKING THE HISTORIC DECISIONS WHICH MIGHT ISSUE FROM CAMP DAVID. IN THIS, HE WAS NOT SO MUCH USURPING THE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE OF THE PLO, BUT RATHER DENYING IT AN ABSOLUTE VETO.

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